

**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** June 20, 1991

**TO:** Bridge, Roadway Design, State Aid  
**FROM:** Robert L. Walters, Asst. Chief Engineer - Design  
**SUBJECT:** Use of Approach Slabs in Seismic Design

Consideration of Seismic Forces in bridge design makes it necessary to reconsider past practice regarding use of approach slabs on flexible pavements. Beginning with the September, 1991 letting, the following policy will be used for approach slabs on projects utilizing asphalt paving:

Approach Slabs shall be used on all state highway bridges with roadway widths greater than 28 feet in Seismic Zones B, C and D. For simplification purposes these zones shall be considered to cover the following Counties:

District 1 - All Counties except Monroe and Phillips.

District 5 - That portion of Jackson County lying east of the Hwy. 67 - White River Crossing and that portion of Independence County lying east of Cord.

District 10 - All Counties.

In the design of bridges in these areas, it may be assumed that the slab and fill will support the backwall loading from seismic forces.

*11-8-91*

Correction State highway bridges 28 feet wide, or less, and county road projects will not require the use of approach slabs.  $\Phi$  ~~If these are overpass structures,~~ the substructure shall have adequate capacity to prevent collapse of the structure without relying on the support of the fill behind the wall.

Current practice regarding use of **approach slabs with concrete pavement** will remain unchanged.

$\Phi$  For structures without approach slabs.....

Attachment

Cc: Mr. Venable